

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. An image reading apparatus comprising:

a light source for illuminating an original to be read with a plurality of images recorded thereon;

conveying means for conveying the original to be read in such a manner that the plurality of images sequentially come to be located at a predetermined reading position;

an image sensor for separating each image recorded on the original to be read into a plurality of pixels, reading the pixels and outputting image data;

designating means for designating an image to be read among the plurality of images; and

control means for controlling the conveying means in such a manner that the original to be read is conveyed at a speed greater than or equal to a conveying speed corresponding to a reading speed of the image to be read until a reading start position for the image to be read designated by the designating means or a vicinity thereof comes to be located at the predetermined reading position, and when reading the image to be read, the original to be read is conveyed at a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed for the image to be read.

2. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,

wherein a plurality of images to be read are designated by the designating means, and in a case where in reading the images successively, reading conditions for the second one of

two adjacent images to be read cannot be set before starting to read the second image to be read, the control means controls the conveying means in such a manner that the position of the original to be read is returned to a position where the reading conditions can be set.

3. An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the reading conditions include the speed at which the conveying means conveys the original to be read.

4. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1,  
wherein the original to be read is conveyed at high speed after completion of reading of the image to be read.

5. An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the original to be read is conveyed at high speed after completion of reading of the image to be read.

6. An image reading apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein the original to be read is conveyed at high speed after completion of reading of the image to be read.

7. An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

8. An image reading apparatus according to claim 3,

wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

9. An image reading apparatus according to claim 5,  
wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

10. An image reading apparatus according to claim 6,  
wherein the reading conditions are set for each of the images to be read.

11. An image reading apparatus according to claim 2,  
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

12. An image reading apparatus according to claim 3,  
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

13. An image reading apparatus according to claim 5,  
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

14. An image reading apparatus according to claim 6,  
wherein the reading conditions are the same for all of the images to be read.

15. An image reading apparatus according to claim 1, wherein on the basis of the reading start position for the image to be read, the control means determines whether or not the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than or equal to a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed of the image to be read until the reading start position for the image to be read or a vicinity thereof comes to be located at the predetermined reading position, and only in a case in which it is determined that the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than or equal to a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed, the control means controls the conveying means to convey the original to be read at a speed greater than or equal to a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed of the image to be read until the reading start position for the image to be read or a vicinity thereof comes to be located at the predetermined reading position.

16. An image reading method in which an original to be read, on which a plurality of images are recorded, is illuminated with light, the original to be read is conveyed such that the plurality of images are successively positioned at a predetermined reading position, each of the plurality of images is separated into plural pixels, and read by an image sensor, and is outputted as image data, said image reading method comprising the steps of:

conveying the original to be read at a speed greater than a conveying speed corresponding to a reading speed of an image

to be read, which is designated from among the plurality of images recorded on the original to be read, until a reading start position of the image to be read or a vicinity thereof comes to be located at the predetermined reading position; and

effecting control such that, at the time of reading the image to be read, the original to be read is conveyed at a conveying speed corresponding to a reading speed of the image to be read.

17. An image reading method according to claim 16, wherein the image to be read is plural images to be read, and when the plural images to be read are read in succession, conveying of the original to be read is controlled such that, when a reading condition of a later image to be read among adjacent images to be read cannot be set by the starting of reading of the later image to be read, a position of the original to be read is returned to a position at which setting of the reading condition of the later image to be read is possible.

18. An image reading method according to claim 17, wherein the reading condition of the later image to be read is a conveying speed of the original to be read.

19. An image reading method according to claim 16, wherein on the basis of the reading start position for the image to be read, a determination is made as to whether or not the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than a conveying

speed corresponding to the reading speed of the image to be read until the reading start position for the image to be read or a vicinity thereof comes to be located at the predetermined reading position, and only in a case in which it is determined that the original to be read should be conveyed at a speed greater than a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed, the conveying of the original to be read is controlled such that the original to be read is conveyed at a speed greater than a conveying speed corresponding to the reading speed of the image to be read until the reading start position for the image to be read or a vicinity thereof comes to be located at the predetermined reading position.